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U.S. PERSONAL INCOME UP AGAIN

ANNCR:

CONTINUING ECONOMIC RECOVERY IN THE UNITED STATES IS REFLECTED IN NEW FIGURES SHOWING A SUBSTANTIAL RISE IN AMERICANS' PERSONAL INCOME. VOA BUSINESS EDITOR FRANK FEINBERG HAS THE DETAILS.

VOICE:

THE U.S. GOVERNMENT REPORTS (MAY 19) THAT PERSONAL INCOME OF AMERICANS INCREASED IN APRIL -- FOR THE NINTH CONSECUTIVE MONTH. PERSONAL INCOME NOW IS TEN PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF LAST YEAR. PERSONAL INCOME IN APRIL ROSE TO AN ANNUAL RATE OF MORE THAN ONE-THOUSAND-THREE -- HUNDRED-FORTY-SEVEN THOUSAND MILLION DOLLARS. THIS REPRESENTS A PER CAPITA ANNUAL PERSONAL INCOME IN THE UNITED STATES OF MORE THAN SIX THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS.

PERSONAL INCOME, WHICH INCLUDES WAGES, SALARIES AND ALL OTHER INCOME BY INDIVIDUALS, IS AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT PART OF THE U.S. ECONOMIC STRUCTURE, INASMUCH AS INDIVIDUAL INCOME SUSTAINS CONSUMER BUYING.

THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT FIGURES SHOW THE PRINCIPLE FACTOR IN THE GROWTH OF PERSONAL INCOME WAS A BIG JUMP IN WAGES AND SALARIES IN APRIL ... UP MORE THAN FIVE THOUSAND MILLION DOLLARS (5.4 BILLION) OVER MARCH. PAYROLLS IN MOST INDUSTRIES GAINED, THE LARGEST COMING IN FOODS, CHEMICALS, PRIMARY METALS AND TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT.

THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF AMERICAN WORKERS ADDED TO PAYROLLS SO FAR THIS YEAR IS EQUALLY IMPRESSIVE. IN THE FIRST QUARTER, EMPLOYMENT ROSE MORE THAN ONE-MILLION PERSONS FROM THE LAST QUARTER OF 1975. MOST PREVIOUS ESTIMATES HAD NOT PROJECTED GAINS IN EMPLOYMENT OF THIS MAGNITUDE.

UNEMPLOYMENT IS HOLDING STEADY, EVEN THOUGH MANY ECONOMISTS HAD EXPECTED THE RATE TO RISE SLIGHTLY, AS THE LABOR FORCE ROSE. PRELIMINARY FIGURES SHOW THE JOBLESS RATE HELD AT SEVEN AND ONE-HALF PER CENT IN APRIL, EVEN THOUGH THE LABOR FORCE INCREASED BY SOME SEVEN-HUNDRED-THOUSAND PERSONS. THIS MAINLY REFLECTS MORE TEENAGERS AND WOMEN AVAILABLE FOR JOBS, MOST OF THEM ENTERING THE LABOR MARKET FOR THE FIRST TIME.

JS/PBM